

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of a drawing includes a change to Fig. 1. The sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. More specifically, the reference numeral "27" pointing to a roller of a fixing unit 25 is deleted to be consistent with the paragraph [0033] of the specification.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are presently pending in this application. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 7 and 9 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1 and 9 can be found at least in paragraphs [0061]-[0062] of the specification, in Figure 8 and in original Claim 2, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claim 7 was objected to; Claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Muramatsu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,628,915, herein “Muramatsu”); and Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabumoto et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0009310, herein “Kabumoto”) in view of Jacobs et al. (U.S. Patent 5,282,002, herein “Jacobs”).

In response to the objection to the drawings, Figure 1 is amended to remove the reference numeral “27” that is pointing to a roller of a fixing unit 25 while retaining the reference numeral “27” that is pointing to an output tray so as to be consistent with the paragraph [0033]. A replacement drawing is attached. Further, with respect to the reference numeral “90,” although noted by the outstanding Office Action, Applicant submits that none of the figures shows the reference numeral “90” designating both a nozzle and an intermediate transfer unit. Indeed, the reference numeral “90” only points to a nozzle as shown for example in Figures 4 and 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the objection thereto.

In response to the objection to the specification, the noted informalities are corrected herein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to Claim 7, Claim 7 is amended to correct the noted informality. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Muramatsu, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as discussed next.

Claim 1 is amended to include, among other things, the features "... the set position of the supporting device being located underneath a control panel of the apparatus ..." recited in original Claim 2, which is now canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that Muramatsu fails to disclose or suggest such features.

Amended independent Claim 9 includes subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in amended Claim 1 to the extent discussed above, and thus the same arguments set forth above apply to Claim 9 as well.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 9 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Muramatsu.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kabumoto and Jacobs, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as discussed next.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus comprising:

- a development mechanism configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member into a visual image;
- a toner storage detachably installed and configured to store toner therein;
- a toner transporting mechanism configured to transport the toner from the toner storage to the development mechanism; and
- a supporting device configured to detachably support the toner storage therein and to move between a set position at which the toner storage is engaged with the toner transporting mechanism and a tilt position at which

the toner storage is disengaged from the toner transporting mechanism, the set position of the supporting device being located underneath a control panel of the apparatus and in front of the apparatus.

According to the features recited in amended Claim 1, a toner storage is supported by a supporting device at a position which is located **in front of an apparatus**. Thus, a user can obtain a clear view of the toner storage and the supporting device, and it becomes possible to efficiently perform an exchange of the toner storage.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kabumoto fails to disclose or suggest such claimed features.

Indeed, Figure 6 of Kabumoto illustrates an installation position of a toner container, wherein the installation position is arranged **at a side of an apparatus**. Kabumoto fails to disclose or suggest the features "... the set position of the supporting device being located underneath a control panel of the apparatus and **in front of the apparatus**" (emphasis added) as recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, when exchanging the toner container in Kabumoto, a user needs to move close to the side of the apparatus, and is forced to perform the exchange of the toner container from a difficult angle without a clear view of the toner container and the supporting device.

Jacobs also does not disclose or suggest the above-noted claimed features, and thus Jacobs cannot overcome the deficiencies in Kabumoto.

Because neither Kabumoto nor Jacobs discloses nor suggests the above-noted claimed features as recited in Claim 1, the combined teachings of Kabumoto and Jacobs do not render obvious the structure as recited in Claim 1.

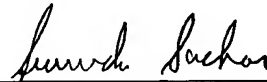
Amended independent Claim 9 includes subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in amended Claim 1 to the extent discussed above, and thus the same arguments set forth above apply to Claim 9 as well.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 9 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Kabumoto and Jacobs.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

GJM/SNS/GS:fm
\\ZEUS\DATA\DATA\ATTY\AKY\24s\244045CIP\AME_FILED.
DOC